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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

NEW EDUCATION FOR A NEW CHINA

This work has proceeded in the liberated areas along two lines. It has been carried out in short-term institutions, such as the North China University, which concentrate entirely on indoctrination. These institutions give primary place to thought reconstruction. The courses are concerned with the theory of revolution and the rationale of various policies, in the hope that the students will think and have the faith and will to serve the people. Second, in regular institutions, the new political thinking is poured into students, and political training is made a part of the curriculum. For example, the North China Conference on Higher Education has determined that the required curriculum in all colleges and universities shall include dialectical materialism in the first term, and the new democracy in the second term. This indoctrination is entirely different from KMT party education which was intended to train youth to be subservient to an oligarchy.

To join education with productive labor becomes vital. In the old KMT educational system they were unrelated. Persons trained in industrial schools often were incompetent to manage factories. In liberated areas, vocational schools are set up in close connection with manufacturing plants. In the Northeast there are 5,012 students in ten higher technical schools located near plants; thus study and practice go hand in hand. School and plant supplement each others needs.

Education in the new democracy is democratic. In the liberated areas, students are given freedom. For example, in the universities in Pei-p'ing, the students may ask for changes in the curriculum, the institution encourages the students to form small study groups. Extracurricular activities are not discouraged; instead, students are encouraged to develop a correct understanding of politics.

A new democratic unity has linked the entire people to work for the institution, under a committee representing students and workers as well as faculty.

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The doors of education have now been opened to the people. Under KMT rule, education was for the few. Now, education is for the people, it belongs to them. At present "the people" are laborers, peasants, petty bourgeoisie, and national capitalists. We want all these people to get the rights and opportunities of education, especially laborers and peasants, who make up 90 percent of the population. In the Northeast the middle schools have a quota of public-expense students. These students are children of revolutionary soldiers and workers, and of indigent laborers and peasants. In North Manchuria more than 50 percent in the middle schools, and more than 80 percent in the elementary come from poor homes.

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